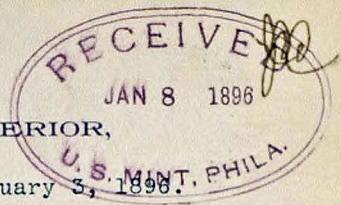


M. B.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

WASHINGTON, January 3, 1896.

The Honorable

The Secretary of the Treasury,

Sir:-

I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of a communication of July 15, 1895, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in which recommendation is made for seven silver medals for issue to certain Indian policemen at the Cheyenne River Agency, South Dakota.

Concurring in the recommendation of the Commissioner, I have the honor to request that you cause seven silver medals, with the usual designs on one side and the President's vignette on the other, to be struck off at the Mint in Philadelphia and forwarded to this Department, the same to be paid for by this Department upon presentation of proper vouchers.

Very respectfully,

Howe Smith
Secretary.

5357 Ind.Div., '95.

One enclosure.

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Jan 3/96

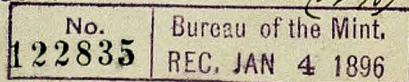
Acty Interior

Enc regⁿ for seven silver
medals for Indian Policemen

Mint Bureau

January 6, 1896.

Respectfully refers to its
Sept. 10. Mint, Philadelphia
who will please cause the
medals herein requested
to be struck and forward the
same to this Bureau
with his account receipted
in duplicate, returning
the letter and (one)



Enc. / Mint.

enclosure.

R. E. Chester Jr.
Director of Mint.

Refer in reply to the following:

Land.

16386-1895

27103-

27725-

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

Washington, July 15, 1895.

The Honorable,

The Secretary of the Interior.

Sir:

In my reports of February 15, and July 3, 1895, and other correspondence on the subject, I gave a history of the killing on March 8, 1893, at the Cheyenne River Agency, South Dakota, of one William Fielder, a squaw man at that Agency, by seven of the Indian police thereof, while resisting arrest and assaulting with intent to kill the policemen; the investigation made of the killing by the judicial authorities at the time it occurred, which resulted in the exoneration of the policemen of any crime in the killing; and of the recent re-arrest and trial of the policemen under harassing circumstances.

From all the facts shown by the correspondence on file in this office, relating to the case, I regard the recent arrest and trial of the policemen as working an unnecessary and great hardship upon worthy and efficient officers of the Indian service. The Agent reports that the men have been impoverished by the very heavy expense they have been put to in defending themselves against the charge of murder in the recent trial, and the subsequent habeas corpus proceedings on behalf of the two who were convicted of an offense unknown to the Federal Courts.

The names of the men who have been made to suffer such great hardship on account of their faithful attempt to perform their duty in carrying out the orders of the Agent to arrest the man that was killed, are -

Straight Head, Captain,

Scares the Hawk, Lieutenant,

Dennis Buck, Private,

Thomas Breast, "

James Crane, "

William Puts on his shoes, Private

Joseph Gray Spotted, "

Under date of April 15, 1895, I received a note from the President, enclosing a communication to him from Mr. Garrett, President of the Indian Rights Association, stating that it had been suggested to him that "it would have a good effect in preventing these faithful men from becoming discouraged in the performance of their duties, if they could be presented with medals, stamped with the head of the President, as an acknowledgment of the performance of their duty, at the risk of death." In transmitting this letter to me the President said "I send you a letter from Mr. Garrett, President of the Indian Rights Association, suggesting an especial recognition of valuable services on the part of our Indian Police. It seems to me this would be a good thing to do. How does the general proposition strike you?"

155882

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155882
No. 4
REC'D
JAN 10 1893
Min. of War

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I replied to the President that I was in full sympathy with the proposition, and had already informed Mr. Herbert Welch that I would co-operate with his association in securing the pardon of the men convicted, if the habeas corpus proceedings resulted adversely to them.

I have the honor therefore to recommend that the Secretary of the Treasury be requested to cause seven silver medals with the usual design on one side and the President's vignette on the other, to be struck off at the Mint at Philadelphia, for the purpose of presentation to the men above named in recognition of the faithful discharge of their duties as United States Indian policemen, on the occasion of the killing of William Fielder, and to be paid for by this Department out of the appropriation for support of Sioux of different tribes, on presentation of a claim in favor of the Bureau of the Mint. I do not know what the cost of these medals will be; but as it appears from the records of this office that the last medals struck for this purpose which was in 1892, cost \$11.05, I presume the cost now would not be greater if as great as then.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

D.M. Browning,

(Murchison)

Commissioner.

L.

[Letter one:]

M.P., J.C.C.

Department of the Interior,
Washington,
January 3, 1896

The Honorable
The Secretary of the Treasury,

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Very respectfully,
Michael H. Smith
Secretary.

5357 Ind. Div., '95.
One enclosure.

[Noted on back of letter:]

Mint Bureau
January 6, 1896

Respectfully referred to the Supt. c.o.s. Mint, Philadelphia who will please cause its medals within requested to be struck and forwarded to same to this Bureau with his account receipted in duplicate, returning this letter and enclosure.

R.E. Preston
Director of Mint.

[Letter two:]

Refer in reply to the following:

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16386-1895

27103- “

27725- “

Department of the Interior,
Office of Indian Affairs,
Washington,
July 15, 1895

The Honorable,
The Secretary of the Interior.

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Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
D.M. Browning,
Commissioner.

(Murchison)
L.